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10 September 1970

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting on Advanced Side-Looking Radar

1. On 1 September 1970, a meeting was held at NPIC to discuss the evaluation of the QU Follow-on SLR Project and the Advanced Strategic SLR System currently being developed, both projects being under NRO management. The following individuals were in attendance:



2. The first part of the meeting was occupied by an explanation by [redacted] of the evaluation by IEG of QU follow-on radar imagery which he is supervising. He explained the methodology and some of the results which seem apparent at this time. The NPIC/IEG PI analysis has been completed, but there is still some work to be done by IEG in reducing the results. [redacted] now has a PI team going through the same exercise. I had previously recommended an interim report to be given us by [redacted] after all of the PI results are in so that the information can be made available to NRO for use in setting up the advanced SLR system now under fabrication by [redacted]. The final report will be submitted in October. According to [redacted] some parameters of a SLR system have already shown their significance--the depression angle, and in particular, the aspect angle for certain types of targets. Early opinions of the evaluations are that a radar resolution of 10 feet in both directions will meet the requirements for which the radar is to be used (SEA and indications/warnings--crisis management).

3. Following [redacted] briefing, there was a lengthy discussion regarding radar in general and the NRO Advanced Strategic System now under development, which is to be tested on Cuban targets.

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The NRO decision to use Cuba as a test area was the result of the excellent study and presentation recommending the area which was made by IEG through the efforts of [REDACTED] NRO plans to begin test flights in March or April 1971. In preparation for this, I recommended to [REDACTED] that the intelligence requirements for target coverage be determined first. Following that, the interpreters and analysts will meet with the radar technical experts [REDACTED], and a plan will be formulated as to how each target could best be covered. Finally, this plan will be submitted to the flight planners so they can plan the best flight schedule and patterns to meet these requirements. The resulting SLR materials will be evaluated by NPIC. Fortunately, [REDACTED] of TSG/RED planned his evaluations of the QU follow-on materials so that the personnel used in that exercise will still be on hand in IEG with their experience in SLR evaluation fresh in mind.

4. In preparation for this series of tasks, I will discuss the situation with IEG. If they can start soon to select the individual targets, determine their EEI, and describe the target orientations where applicable, their workload can be spread over a long period of time--thus, avoiding a last-minute scramble and the problems generated thereby.

5. The NPIC project number for this project is 250651. Matters concerning the project should be directed to [REDACTED] TSG/RED, [REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED] recommended that [REDACTED] a SLR expert on his staff, be cleared [REDACTED] in order that his talents can be used. Action will be initiated by the undersigned to obtain this clearance through NRO.

[REDACTED]
Deputy Chief, Reconnaissance Systems Branch, RED,
TSG/NPIC

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